

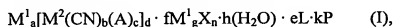
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing at least one alkoxylate, which comprises:

bringing at least one alkylene oxide selected from the group consisting of ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, butylene oxide, pentylene oxide, and decene oxide into contact with at least one Guerbet alcohol having from 10 to 15 carbon atoms in the presence of at least one double metal cyanide compound of the general formula (I):



wherein

-  $M^1$  is at least one metal ion selected from the group consisting of  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Fe^{2+}$ ,  $Fe^{3+}$ ,  $Co^{3+}$ ,  $Ni^{2+}$ ,  $Mn^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$ ,  $Sn^{2+}$ ,  $Pb^{2+}$ ,  $Mo^{4+}$ ,  $Mo^{6+}$ ,  $Al^{3+}$ ,  $V^{4+}$ ,  $V^{5+}$ ,  $Sr^{2+}$ ,  $W^{4+}$ ,  $W^{6+}$ ,  $Cr^{2+}$ ,  $Cr^{3+}$ ,  $Cd^{2+}$ ,  $Hg^{2+}$ ,  $Pd^{2+}$ ,  $Pt^{2+}$ ,  $V^{2+}$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ ,  $Ba^{2+}$ ,  $Cu^{2+}$ ,  $La^{3+}$ ,  $Ce^{3+}$ ,  $Ce^{4+}$ ,  $Eu^{3+}$ ,  $Ti^{3+}$ ,  $Ti^{4+}$ ,  $Ag^+$ ,  $Rh^{2+}$ ,  $Rh^{3+}$ ,  $Ru^{2+}$ , and  $Ru^{3+}$ ;

-  $M^2$  is at least one metal ion selected from the group consisting of  $Fe^{2+}$ ,  $Fe^{3+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{3+}$ ,  $Mn^{2+}$ ,  $Mn^{3+}$ ,  $V^{4+}$ ,  $V^{5+}$ ,  $Cr^{2+}$ ,  $Cr^{3+}$ ,  $Rh^{3+}$ ,  $Ru^{2+}$ , and  $Ir^{3+}$ ;

- A and X are each, independently of one another, an anion selected from the group consisting of halide, hydroxide, sulfate, carbonate, cyanide, thiocyanate, isocyanate, cyanate, carboxylate, oxalate, nitrate, nitrosyl, hydrogensulfate, phosphate, dihydrogenphosphate, hydrogenphosphate, and hydrogencarbonate;

- L is a water-miscible ligand selected from the group consisting of alcohols, aldehydes, ketones, ethers, polyethers, esters, polyesters, polycarbonate, ureas, amides,

primary, secondary and tertiary amines, ligands having a pyridine nitrogen, nitriles, sulfides, phosphides, phosphites, phosphanes, phosphonates, and phosphates;

- k is a fraction or integer greater than or equal to 0;
- P is an organic additive selected from the group consisting of polyethers, polyesters, polycarbonates, polyalkylene glycol sorbitan esters, polyalkylene glycol glycidyl ethers, polyacrylamide, poly(acrylamide-co-acrylic acid), polyacrylic acid, poly(acrylamide-co-maleic acid), polyacrylonitrile, polyalkyl acrylates, polyalkyl methacrylates, polyvinyl methyl ether, polyvinyl ethyl ether, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, poly-N-vinylpyrrolidone, poly(N-vinylpyrrolidone-co-acrylic acid), polyvinyl methyl ketone, poly(4-vinylphenol), poly(acrylic acid-co-styrene), oxazoline polymers, polyalkylenimines, maleic acid and maleic anhydride copolymers, hydroxyethylcellulose, polyacetates, ionic surface- and interface-active compounds, bile acids or their salts, esters or amides, carboxylic esters of polyhydric alcohols, glycosides and mixtures thereof;

- a, b, c, d, g and n are selected so that the compound (I) is electrically neutral, wherein c may be equal to 0;
- e is the number of ligand molecules and is a fraction or integer greater than or equal to 0;
- f and h are each, independently of one another, a fraction or integer greater than or equal to 0; and

wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of from 140°C to 155°C.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 10, wherein

- (1)  $M^1$  is selected from the group consisting of  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Fe^{2+}$ ,  $Fe^{3+}$ ,  $Co^{3+}$ ,  $Ni^{2+}$ ,  $Mn^{2+}$ , and  $Co^{2+}$ ; or
- (2)  $M^2$  is selected from the group consisting of  $Fe^{2+}$ ,  $Fe^{3+}$ , and  $Co^{3+}$ .

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 10, wherein  $M^1$  is  $Zn^{2+}$  and  $M^2$  is  $Co^{3+}$ .

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 10, wherein the at least one alkylene oxide is ethylene oxide or propylene oxide.

Claim 14 (canceled):

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 10, wherein the alcohol is 2-propylheptanol or an isomer mixture thereof.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 10, wherein the sum of inert gas partial pressure and alkylene oxide partial pressure is from 1.5 bar to 6.0 bar during the induction phase.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): The process according to claim 14, wherein the Guerbet alcohol is selected from the group consisting of propylheptanol and butyl octanol.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): The process according to claim 10, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of from 140°C to 150°C.

**Claim 21 (canceled):**